



Lake Ainsworth Position Paper

The following are the issues which we believe are essential to the water quality, environmental quality and hence “natural feel” of Lake Ainsworth, so highly regarded by our community (in rough order of priority):

- Closure of the eastern road to all but emergency and maintenance vehicles
- Construction of appropriate swales along the entire road corridor once closed along with a raingarden or other system to prevent erosion in times of hi rainfall (location of the swales needs to be determined by the treatment of the old road surface. If the tarmac and clay road base are removed and replaced by sand then the swale is best located between that surface and the dunes; if the old roadbase is left in place then the swale is more effective if located between the old road and the lake.
- Provision of appropriate riparian vegetation to protect lake edges, absorb and filter nutrients and other pollutants and enhance recreational use.
- Remove tarmac and existing roadbase and replace it with a 4m wide grassed, permeable, vehicular appropriate surface underlaid by a sand base.
- Appropriate management of stormwater. Construction of appropriate swales and absorption beds along the entire southern foreshore between the road/car parking spaces and the riparian zone.
- Use of a suitably durable grass type for all grassed areas (NB couch has proven to be totally inadequate in high use areas such as this; viz, past experience at Pat Morton Lookout and the BBQ area on the SE corner of the lake, initial research suggests either Empire Zoysia or Kenda Kikuyu might be more suitable) with an effective weed guard to separate grassed areas from areas of native vegetation. A durable and high cut grassed surface will better absorb rainfall thus reducing erosion to both the riparian zone and the lake banks. It will also be more pleasant for lake users.
- Underground replacement (or, at the very least, relocation) of the power lines between the Sport & Rec Centre and the dog walkers’ access track (old 4WD access). These lines cross through native vegetation (quite some distance from the road) and will be threatened by growing canopy at some

stage in the near future. Regular maintenance of the lines will require access which doesn't currently exist.

- Maintenance of the existing natural buffer zone between the Camp Drewe Road and Lake Ainsworth with the following modifications;
 - One, and only one walking track be retained, leading from the grassed area in the SE corner to the Sport & Rec. boundary to the north, with a hardened earth surface to National Parks' standards.
 - One branch to the west be retained in a location that encourages walkers to access the fire trail system to the west of Camp Drewe Rd; all other tracks out to Camp Drewe Rd to be closed off.
 - Retention and restoration of existing fencing (with some small realignment) in order to protect the lake edges from foot traffic.
 - Removal of existing parking places along Camp Drewe RD to avoid attracting campers and picnickers into the buffer zone.
 - Construction of vegetated filtration and absorption beds along the eastern boundary of the road or some other means of effectively dispersing and dissipating road runoff to prevent channel erosion.
 - Provision of signage which explains the sensitivity of the lake edge and the riparian zone and highlights that camping, dogs, bikes and fishing are not acceptable.
- Effective stormwater treatment of all water entering from lands not under BCS management, including the sites occupied by Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre and NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust.
- Investigation into the impact of introduced flora and fauna species in the lake and their impact on both environmental and public health with appropriate action to address any negative impacts.
- Replacement of existing overhead powerlines between the dog walkers' track and the surf club precinct with underground powerlines to protect stabilising dune vegetation from changing light conditions which threaten it's ongoing health and hence it's effectiveness.
- Establishment of a management structure, as outlined in the 2002 Management Plan, to foster a coordinated approach by all agencies contributing to the water and environmental quality of the lake and it's immediate surrounds. Fisheries representation also desirable.
- Notice boards providing information similar to the L Mackenzie signs re sunscreen and toilet before entering water.